V.II

The most true and wonderfull

NARRATION

Of two women bewitched

in *Yorkshire*: Who comming to the Assizes at *York* to give in Evidence against the Witch after a most horrible noise to the terror and amazement of all the beholders, did vomit forth before the Judges, Pins, wool, and hafts of Knives, &c.

BODLEIANA

All which was done (to make the wonder more wonderfull) without the least drop of bloud or moisture from their mouths.

Also a most true Relation of a young Maid not far from *Lanck*, who being bewitched in the same manner did (almost incredibly) vomit forth wadds of straw, with pins a crosse in them, iron Nails, Needles, Points, and whatsoever she had seen in the basket of the witch that did bewitch her.

As it is attested under the hand of that most famous Phisitian Doctor *Henry Heers*

Together, how it pleased God that she was afterwards recovered by the art of Physick, and the Names of the Ingredients and the manner how to make that rare Receipt that cured her.

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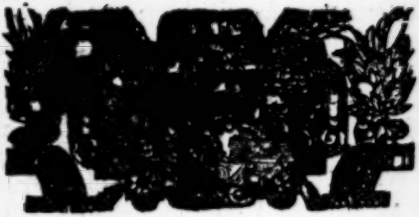

The wonderfull Inchantment of two women not far from the City of *York*, who at the last Assizes were brought in as evidences against two old Witches and the most incredible Vomits which they made before the Judges on the Bench; with the deliberate Counsell of the said Judges thereupon.

THere are some who are of opinion, That there are no Divells, nor any Witches; but reason it selfe, and the Rule of Contraryes will

easily detect that grosse Errour. Men in this Age are grown so wicked, that they are apt to beléeve there are no greater Divells then themselves. and many of them do what they can to justifie that belief.

Man indeed is a Divell unto man both by Temptation, and by cruelty. To his own corruption he addeth the Suggestions of the Divell; & though he starteth at his presence he is apt to entertain his Counsels. Hereupon when the Divell appeareth, it is commonly at the first in ỳ shape which he knoweth to be most agréeable to ỳ person to whom he would appear.

We have read in Histories of some persons who have laid great commands upon the Divell, which for his own ends he hath readily obeyed: but women being the weaker vessels, their apprehensions are more sudden and violent. and are therefore ready to be carried away with the least Temptation.

Du Moulin a famous preacher in France, in his Discourse on The Love of God, representeth That if a man had a good sword, wherewith he had archieved many great exploits, he would be sure to make much of

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that ſword, he would keep it bright, and enammell the hiles with all the Arts of the Artificer. In the ſame manner (ſaith he) woman being the moſt dangerous weapon which the Divell hath uſed to give ſo many a foile unto man, what doth he not contrive to commend and to increaſe the temptation of her beauties. He provideth Hypocriſie for her heart, and fable pitches for her face: He is not wanting for inventions to keep high her Complexion, and upon all occaſions he hath her ready in all moda's & faſhions for the Allurement, and the deſtruction of men.

Certainly where there is much of vanity, there is but little of modeſty or Religion to be expected. But he inſinuates himſelf even into tender Natos, and by the Divine permiſſion makes them the ſad Subjects of his implacable malice, And this ſhould warne us of both Sexes to be carefull at all times to ſeek for the Divine protection.

At the Aſſizes this laſt Lent at the City of York, there were ſome old women Arraigned for witches. The cheefeſt Evidences that came againſt them were two young women, who being brought before ye Judges

did both of them fall into wonderfull fits: at the first time they were troubled with this strange visitation, it seemed to be convulsion fits, but the possessing disease growing by degrees upon them they began at last with great violence to cry out upon the gripings which tormented them, and swounding away they did vomit wooll, and crooked pins, and halfs of knives, one whereof being of Marble made a great noyse by reason of ỳ weight of it, as it fell upon the floore. The Judges desired to see it, and it was brought unto them amongst many other things which these young women vomited.

The Jury being satisfied with the Evidence and some other Indictments, did cast the Witches who made these women to cast so lamentably: But the Judges were not throughly satisfied, and therefore they thought it requisite to give some respite of time for a more deliberate determination, being uncertain whether this wonderfull Vomite proceeded from the Divel, or whether it were some artificiall combination of the two women to impose upon the Judges, and the Court.

I should insist longer upon this story, ac-

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cording to your expectation, but having the same time, the same account in Latine as it is fully in print expressed by that great and famous Scholler Henry ab Heeres who was but lately living, and Physitian extraordinary to the most Serene, the Prince Elector of Colen. I have thought it fit in this place to Translate it into English, and to represent it to you because at large he doth declare the Original and the whole manner of the Disease, and how it pleased God that he should find a cure by the art of Physick for so wonderfull a Visitation but I begin with my author.

A young maid, about nine years of Age; second to none in the City where she lived, either for beauty or birth, having given unto a witch y^t beg'd at the door both bread and beer, did receive from her a leaf of Sorrell, which having unwarily put into her mouth, and swallowed it down, not long after she was troubled with convulsion fits; Swounding away she did fall down as dead. There were calls to her help Physitians both male and Female (for at Traiectum upon ye river of Mosa where this came to passe) both sexes practice Physick, It was in ye month of May; in ye year 1652. Many

Many Remedyes for many days were applyed but to no effect, and ye poor maid being Tormented with most grievous fits, it was thought expedient (according to ye custom of ye place) ye they should have recourse to the Religious man, who no sooner appeared, and began to exercise his Function, but ye Maid began to turn a wreath her body into those forms which no man can conceive but those ye saw her. After ye she spewed Horse-dung, needles, pins, hair, feathers, knots of thread, pieces of broken glasses, nayles drept from whole, a knife longer then a span & shels of Eggs & fish. In the mean time her parents, sisters and neighbors, did observe ye if at any time ye witch came nier to the house, or but looked towards it, ye poor maid was Tormented more then before, nor could be freed from her fits, or give any sign of life till she was gone further off. The witch was therefore apprehended, who confessing this & many other Witch crafts, was deservedly Hanged.

The reverend man who did go alongwith her to the place of Execution, did desire her (as the hangman was fiting the halter to her neck) in this her last agony, and moment

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on which Eternity doth depend to un-bewitch the Maid, she made answer to the holy Father ỳ she could not do it in regard ỳ four times (which we call days) had interven'd since she had swallowed down the Witch-craft, moreover she affirmed ỳ if she could do it The young Maid would not so easily recover, for she named two other witches who had practised upon her their deadly Arts, and if ever she escap'd, she said it would ask a long time.

Her Father and her Mother therefore despairing of her Recovery, did bring their daughter unto my house about the middle of September, whom I entertained for some weeks: what things I then saw, and heard and touched because I know that many who differ in Religion from me will hardly believe. So God shall save me. I will give you here a perfect account of, and of no more then what I saw.

The day after ỳ she came unto my house, I sent to Luick for the Religious man who is yet alive. Before he came nèr unto the Threshold by fifty paces, the Maid fell down I did believe she had been dead for there was not the least sign of breath to testifie she was

living,

lifting, The fingers of her hands, and her toes (I should hardly have believed it, if I had not seen and touched them) were by a strang convulsion so contracted that the third joynt was so sunk down and knotted to ỹ second, which could never come to passe by nature, that you would have thought they had been both but one joynt. I attempted but in vain, to interpose a goldẽ Wodkin which I had, the like I made triall of with a naple, and at last with a hot Iron but could not prevaile. The mother (who was so indulgent to her that she was hardly ever from her) told me that the holy man sent for to Luick was not far off, And indeed so it was, for she scarce had spoke the word but he knocked at the dor, and being come into the chamber, he no sooner pronounced the first words out of the Gospell when ỹ poor maid who lay before more senceless then a carkase was so vehemently shaken al her body over (the joynts of her fingers and her toes being still tyed in a knot) that six of us were not able to hold her I who endeavoured with all the strength I had to hold her head, also perceived both with my eyes & hands ỹ do what I could she by a formidable convulsion did turn both head and neck towards

wards her shoulders: In the mean time the lower part of her belly being swelled high, & into a great bulk, did seem more nearer her throat then her groyn, and her guts made so great a noyse that plainly they might be heard of all being ten paces from her. This sounding of her Bowels was much like unto the sound of the waters which the wind doth make under the stern of a ship when the tide and the tempest do begin to scold she did vomit forth all this while some of those things which I have already mentioned: I take compassion on the innocent Maid & besought the Divine that he he would forbeare to read any more. He was no sooner silent but in that instant she lay most quiet and when he was gone out of the house the young Maid rose up opening her eyes. and her fingers and toes being reduced to their first naturall posture she did weepe a little, and did chide her Mother that she had sent for the divine, although she protested that she neither saw him nor heard any word he spake. Immediately afterwards as if she had suffered nothing at all, she played with her companions. and did eat and drink with them untill the reverend man returning to his office, she returned to her

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torments as before. I did then behold her to vomit many feathers and wads of straw, thicker then my thumb with pins stuck a crosse in them and points made of tyred of severall colours. I did behold her also at ye same time to vomit four rowes of pins stuck in a blew paper whole and freesh, as if they had bin newly bought at the Haberdashers-shop.

Finally the poor Maid affirmed that she did vomit forth all those things which she saw in the Witches basket when she begged of her, which being contrary to all Philosophy must certainly proceed from the Divel. Else it was impossible that so long & sharp a knife as that which she vomited should not cut her bowels and her throat: I therefore affirmed that there was some mist cast on our eyes, & that which this young Maid seem'd to vomit did only fall from her lips into my hands by the illusion of the Divel: but the young maid being then with us & of an apprehension above her age, did interpose, and doubt not (saith she) but these things do proceed out of my owne body, and taking me by the hand she did put it into her mouth, and said you may feele a pin comming up without a head: I did feele it. & thinking I had taken fast hold of it in her

Throat

throat I did perceive that it was suddenly pluckt down into her body by force from me, as some taggs of her points were heretofore by others. But seeing her prone to vomit I put my right hand into her mouth, and with my fingers in her throat I did take out a needle with thred, points and straw and other things, which I still preserve to satisfie the curious. Being sent afterwards to severall places but to no effect, she was returned to me again in a sad condition, not only loathing wine and beere, but bread and all manner of meat; for forty dayes together she lived onely on Grapes Almonds, Apples, and the cold fruits of Autumn; neither did the rose fall from her cheek, nor the Lilly wither from her brow.

At the last for fifteene dayes together she would take no sustenance at all, how she could live so long without any food I must confesse I cannot tell, but that she did doe it, both I and my servants are ready to take the greatest and most obliging Oath that can be propounded to us.

On the fifteenth day she of her own accord did call for drink, and no longer did refuse her meat. Not long afterwards, I prepared

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her a decoction of Mugwort, St Johns Sothernwood, Vervin, Maiden-haire, Rorida, & other Ingredients which are behind to have a vertue to dispell the power of witch-craft, & having for certain dayes us'd her body to this drink, I did send her home. In the mean time turning over all Books of physick ẏ were written on this subject, I did light upon the Secrets of Charichterus, who prescribeth a remedy for this Inchantment, which when I found to be highly commended by Schlandius ẏ Physitian of Wormtz, I did write to him, and to some Apothecaryes in Franckford in whose shops he said it was to be sold, being resolved to give any mony for it. But when I found ẏ they were loath to part with so great a secret and being studious night and day to do the young maid good, I took Charichterus into my hand again, & having at the last understood him, for the Printer by a great fau't had made Holtzbletterbeer but one word, which should be 3 words in the German Tongue, I made the Oyntment at last my self, and I will describe unto you the way to make it.

Take of the fat of a young Dog well melted & cleansed 4 ounces, Of the fat of a bear

eight

Eight ounces of the fat of a Capon 24. ounces. Three stemms of the green and correll Tree, Tree ẏ hath the gum on it, Cut ẏ peces small and beat them till they grow moyst, beat the wood, leaves and berries together, Then take all and put them into a pot, which having set in ẏ sun 9 weeks; you shall extract from thence a green balsom, with which anoint ẏ Joynts and those places of ẏ bewitched which do most pain them & by a sure experiment you shal cure them, as appeareth by this Maid, who ever since hath bin perfectly recovered.

This we have thought fit to put into English, and who will refuse to read it? And because this young Maid had more violent fits then those in Yorkshire, it may please God that using the same remedy they and all others who are bewitched in the same maner may find the same recovery which is the happy end that in this paper we do aim at.

The End.